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FLOOR DEBATE

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and spreading it over the local fields. That's the method by which most operations purport to deal with their animal waste. And in doing that, obviously, if you're spreading too much waste on one field, you'll have an accumulation of nitrates, you'll have an accumulation of phosphorous, and those accumulations, if too great, can eventually ruin the fields. And if too great or applied at the wrong time of year, can run off into the waters of the state and spoil them in the same manner as they could run directly off the feedlot and spoil the waters of the state. So these management plans and being honest about these management plans and having them properly regulated and inspected from time to time is really the key to the success of the whole operation once the construction period is over. And as has been indicated earlier, what we're doing here is incorporating everything that the federal government says now must be done with regard to nutrient management plans, and I just wanted to read that to you because several of you have had questions about some of these things already. But it also should be instructive to you from another point of view. You'll, as I read these, I'm sure you'll say, now what does that mean, or do we really want that, or how is that going to be dealt with? And the answer to all of these questions, almost down the line, is we'll rely upon the Department of Environmental Quality to answer these questions. Right? Because we're not going to put any of this stuff in the bill; again, contrast to LB 962. But here's what the regulations say about nutrient management plans. It instructs that they'll be done by a certain date and that they will be on file, albeit, as Senator Preister has pointed out, not necessarily at the department. But here's what they're supposed to do. One, ensure adequate storage of manure, litter, and process wastewater, including procedures to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the storage facilities. And, by the way, I should also mention and you should understand that the proper...the proper and rightly understood environmental limitations presented by nutrient management plans and the proper disposal of the waste really acts as a kind of limitation on the size of operations too. So if you're concerned about the size of operations, you'll want to understand what management nutrient...nutrient management plans require. Because, to the extent that you have to spread this manure over more and more fields and transport it further, it makes it less economical the